



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TX113

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, Swisher, Lamb, Bailey and Hale counties – Texas Panhandle

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Intersection of Hwy 385 and Hwy 60 in Hereford, Texas

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☒ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would be committed to maintaining food safety and public health from the perspective of food animal veterinary practice primarily related to dairy cattle, milk and dairy product production and beef products. The veterinarian would assist producers in achieving environmentally sound agricultural practices as well as consulting on the most appropriate animal welfare practices. They will be a first line of defense for preventing the introduction of foreign animal or reportable diseases, diagnosing and reporting said diseases should they occur, assuring appropriate animal movement requirements, and documentation and assistance in any reportable disease investigation or response efforts. According to the 2008 AVMA database, these counties have a combined total of 2,197,985 food animals and 20 veterinarians. At over 100,000 food animals per veterinarian, the state has great concerns about the potentially devastating losses possible in this area in the event of a disease outbreak. In reality, the addition of multiple veterinarians in coming years will be necessary to meet this need. The state would anticipate that an awardee would spend a minimum of 80% of their time doing dairy and beef work in this area.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage situation would establish and maintain regular herd health visits with a number of producers, assist in establishing and overseeing appropriate preventative animal health and treatment protocols, procedures and to be a preliminary entity to help ensure food safety and the security of public health. A working knowledge of epidemiology will be expected. Routine herd health visits, pregnancy determination and emergency services will encompass a large portion of the veterinarian's time. Along with these services, preventative health visits, farm employee training and education, regulatory animal disease movement testing and documentation as required by the state and USDA, educational producer and/or community meetings, milk quality troubleshooting, as well as counseling on environmental practices, animal welfare and best production methods to ensure food safety and public health are activities in which a veterinarian may be involved. There may be opportunities for a veterinarian to join an existing practice in this area.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Practices in the area report difficulty recruiting new associates as well as a problem retaining veterinarians. Past recruiting efforts have included advertisements in state and national journals, and coordination with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. There are also efforts to engage young people through local 4H and FFA programs. Retention is a major concern so the awardee would be encouraged to pursue a position where there is the opportunity for mentorship and a sharing of on-call duties.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Texas is one of the top dairy states (ranked #9) in the U.S. Texas produces approximately 6.4 billion pounds of milk (3.6%) of the 177 billion produced annually in the U.S. The panhandle region of Texas is the epicenter of the dairy industry in Texas and growth in this area has been rapid and continuous in recent years. Should a veterinarian not be retained in this location, the potential risk to the food supply is significant. Food animal veterinarians are the first line of defense, education and prevention when it comes to maintaining a safe and wholesome food supply. Working intimately with producers,

veterinarians assure appropriate therapeutic procedures including drug residue avoidance. Domestic and foreign export markets demand a consistent and safe food product, and veterinarians are essential to help assure this via consultation, education and training of producers and farm personnel. Should the industry not have access to the services of a veterinarian, public health risks are a considerable concern. In addition, livestock operations in this area are crucial to the community's economy via jobs and tax contributions. Animal welfare is an integral part of veterinary medicine and there are no other professionals more qualified to be guardians of animal welfare and animal health.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA
Name: (point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)
State Veterinarian/Executive Director
Title:
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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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